THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The lifting of levy sugar has been reduced considerably. As on 1.3.2003, a quantity of 3.32 lakh M.Ts. of levy sugar remained unlifted as per the reports received from the sugar factories during the season 2002-2003.

(c) to (e) Keeping accumulation of stocks in view, relief has been provided by way of permitting factories to sell equivalent quantity of unlifted levy sugar stock in the open market at rates deemed appropriate by them.

(f) Release of non-levy sugar in lieu of the unlifted levy sugar has not affected the prices of sugar in the open market as the quantity involved was rather small.

Lifting of foodgrains by States

5010. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has called an all party meeting to discuss the country's godowns overflowing with foodgrains and the States, including those which pleaded for foodgrains aid to combat drought last year, have been extremely tardy about the lifting of foodgrains allocated by the Centre;

(b) if so, whether this problem alongwith failure of PDS system was also discussed in the meeting;

(c) if so, whether any concrete measures or action plan has been worked out in this regard and the views/suggestions of all the participants have been incorporated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) to (e) An All Party Meeting is proposed to be convened to discuss and review measures to strengthen the Public Distribution System in the States and Union Territories.